

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1-41. Canceled

42. (Currently amended) ~~In a~~ A schedule managing method for managing the purchases of particular articles planned by consumers, there are used comprised of the following steps:

providing first means including a management server connected to a plurality of consumer terminals, each belonging to a particular consumer, via a communication network and at least one database connected to said management server to be ~~reference~~ referenced by said management server, for sending to and from said management server at least

information on consumers and

information on consumers' purchases or actions planned for a preselected term;

storing second means for storing the information in said database at least said information on consumers and said information on consumers' purchases or actions planned for a preselected term; and

obtaining from said database, in response to an inquiry from a consumer terminal, at least third means for obtaining the information said information on consumers and said information on consumers' purchases or actions planned for a preselected term stored in said database;

~~wherein said schedule managing method obtains information on potential consumers as to a particular article~~

classifying by attribute at least said information on consumers and said information on consumers' purchases or actions planned for a preselected term; and

sending to a producer terminal at least said information on consumers and said information on consumers' purchases or actions planned for a preselected term.

43 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said ~~first~~ means management server sends at least one information on the consumers' purchases planned on the basis of more detailed information on the article to be purchased.

44. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein said management server is connected to at least one retailer terminal situated at a retail ~~retailer~~ store, which directly sells the article, via a communication network,
the retail store is provided with an authenticating means unique to said retail store, and

the authenticating means is sent to said management server as a history of the article purchased by the customer.

45. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 44, wherein when the consumer purchases the article planned at the retail ~~retailer~~ store, said retailer terminal sends information on ~~said~~ at least one consumer of said consumers and information on a at least one consumer's action planned for a preselected term of said consumers' purchases or actions planned for said preselected term to said management server, and

said management server determines, based on the information received from said retailer terminal, whether or not the consumer has performed the action planned and sends a result of decision to said retailer terminal.

46. Canceled

47. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein the attribute comprises personal information of the consumer, which includes at least an age, a sex and a taste, or residence area information based on said personal information.

48. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 47, wherein when the consumer has performed the planned action, the producer terminal gives a

preselected incentive to said consumer ~~schedule by schedule~~.

49. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the preselected incentive is set in accordance with a time when the consumer has input a schedule and a content of said schedule.

50. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ as claimed in claim 49, wherein the incentive comprises a discount rate of the article to be purchased by the consumer.

51. Canceled

52. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~43~~ 51, wherein the attribute comprises personal information of ~~the~~ a consumer, which includes at least an age, a sex and a taste, or residence area information based on said personal information.

53. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein when the consumer has performed the planned action, the producer terminal gives a preselected incentive to said consumer schedule by schedule.

54. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 53, wherein the preselected incentive is set in accordance with a time when the consumer has input a schedule and a content of said schedule.

55. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ as claimed in claim 54, wherein the incentive comprises a discount rate of the article to be purchased by the consumer.

56. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein when ~~the~~ a consumer has performed the planned action, the producer terminal gives a preselected incentive to said consumer ~~schedule by schedule~~.

57. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~56~~ 42, wherein the

preselected incentive is set in accordance with a time when the consumer has input a schedule and a content of said schedule.

58. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 57 ~~42~~, wherein the incentive comprises a discount rate of the article to be purchased by the consumer.

59-75. Canceled